

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AEMBASSY BUDAPEST 2803

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ATTACKS ON RFE/RL

REF: MOSCOW 1738, 1432

1. PRAVDA FOR FEBRUARY 15 ATTACKS RFE/RL IN TWO SEPARATE PLACES. IN A SIGNED ARTICLE BY OLEG ORESTOV IN THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW SECTION, THE RADIOS ARE TAKEN TO TASK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HELSINKI CSCE FINAL ACT. THE ARTICLE NOTES APPROVINGLY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE WITHDREW THE CREDENTIALS OF THE RFE CORRESPONDENTS BECAUSE THEY REPRESENTED NO COUNTRY. THE STATIONS ARE DESCRIBED AS FINANCED BY THE CIA AND "AS CARRYING ON OPENLY HOSTILE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." THE COMMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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RFE/RL FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY AFTER A SENTENCE ON THE ASSASSINATION IN THE FRG OF A YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT,

IMPLYING SOME CIA CONNECTION WITH EMIGRE ELEMENTS
GUILTY OF THAT CRIME. BOTH THE YUGOSLAVIAN ASSASSINATION
AND THE EXISTENCE OF RFE/RL ARE DESCRIBED AS VIOLATING
THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

2. PRAVDA ALSO CONTAINS A THREE PARAGRAPH TASS DISPATCH
FROM PRAGUE UNDER THE HEADLINE "UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
CIA". THIS DISPATCH TALKS ABOUT A REPORTED DECLARATION
BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
JOURNALISTS (IOJ) AGAINST RFE/RL. "THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
'JOURNALISTS' WORKING AT THESE RADIO STATIONS RUNS CONTRARY
TO ALL THE NORMS OF PROFESSIONAL HONOR," THE ARTICLE
STATES. ACCORDING TO THE DISPATCH, THE IOJ RECOMMENDED
THAT ALL THE MASS MEDIA REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH RFE/RL
CORRESPONDENTS. MOREOVER, THE IOJ CONSIDERED IT "UNDESIRABLE"
FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF RFE/RL TO ATTEND THE IOJ'S 8TH INTER-
NATIONAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN HELSINKI IN SEPTEMBER. THE
PRAVDA STORY CONCLUDES WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE IOJ
SECRETARIAT "UNDERLINED" THE NECESSITY FOR JOURNALISTS OF
ALL COUNTRIES TO CAMPAIGN TO CLEANSE FROM THE
JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION THOSE WHO USE THE "METHODS" OF THE
RADIO STATIONS.
STOESSEL

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